

long time. The first bill I introduced calling for a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, we came close to that amendment being adopted recently. I hope we return to it again. I hope it can be adopted.

I am delighted to know that harmonious relations exist. There is nobody fussing right now about the other pertaining to the recess, as it is being called. But let me say this from the perspective of long-time negotiations of the settlement of lawsuits: You do not do too well with recesses. So my advice, if it is to mean anything, is get back together. You might want to recess a day or 2, or maybe a week at the longest, but recesses allow the re-entrenchment of ideas, and therefore you do not have the give-and-take, you come fortified to maintain your position.

It is a matter of trying to be reasonable in getting together. We are mighty close now. So let us not have too long a recess. Let us get back together. Certainly by the time the President makes his State of the Union Address, we ought to, by that time, have an agreement. That ought to be a goal that we should be striving toward, and making every effort.

We are close, but the differences are still major. But we can reach an agreement and produce a balanced budget for 7 years. I urge all participants in the negotiations to get back together and to work and endeavor to be reasonable and to reach an agreement.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JEFFORDS). The Senator from Alaska.

MR. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

#### THE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I want to comment very briefly on the matter that has been the subject of some discussion, and that is the weather in Washington, DC. Alaskans operate on the theory that you are hardy because you have to be. I might add, that for reasons unknown, perhaps because of the extended atmospheric conditions or warm air or some might conclude hot air emanating from Washington, DC, in this general area, I think we have attracted something, and it has been snow. Much of that perhaps has moved from my State of Alaska where we have virtually no snow.

Our ski resorts in Anchorage have not opened, and in Fairbanks there is not enough snow to go cross-country skiing or snow machining. So I do not know whether that is a blessing in disguise or not. But Alaskans are somewhat concerned, and I might add somewhat confused. But I do not think Alaskans necessarily are the only ones that have made that observation as a consequence of the last several weeks of discussion here in Washington.

#### HELPING A DRIVER IN THE SNOW

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I might just add for the benefit of my colleagues a little story that occurred the other day when my wife and I were walking over here on Monday and it was pretty scarce around here. The snow plows had not been active at all on the street that we live on even though it is a street that offers bus service. We are only about 6 or 8 blocks away.

We came over and went through the mail and did a few odd things, as we have been doing each day since. Going back I noticed a car was trying to get up a small hill. It was about a two-block hill. They were not having any luck. The more the driver pressed on the throttle, the more the wheels spun.

I said I would be happy to get his car up to the top of the hill for him. So he got out of the car, and I got in the car and put it in drive, and very slowly eased up the hill. I noticed that there was another hill at the end of the first block. I thought, well, the best thing to do is take it up to the corner. And as I crept up the second block, I noticed the gentleman was shaking and beginning to run after the car.

I stopped at the stop sign when I got to the top of the hill, and he said, "I didn't think you were going to stop. I thought you were going to steal my car."

I said, "No. I didn't want to stop at the first stop sign because we were still on a hill and you would have trouble."

He said, "Well, I'm sure glad that you got my car up the hill." But he said, "I was really concerned you were going to run away with it."

To end the story, he got in the car. I left. He went around the corner and got stuck again. I guess it is a hazard that is associated with so many experiences.

#### THE BUDGET TALKS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me make a reference to the state of affairs relative to the suspended budget talks. I think it is fair to say that we have all observed, with some chagrin, finger pointing, the reality that after these endless meetings we are left with a situation where we have not reached an accord. It is undoubtedly a reality that we will not get this thing resolved until after the State of the Union on the 23d of January. It would be perhaps speculative to suggest we will get it resolved at that time. But we certainly hope so.

But I think it is fair to say that the extended discussions covering the major issues of Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, taxes have been thoroughly gone into, but they are still not resolved. The President has stepped forward with a 7-year proposal to balance the budget, but the difficulty with that is most of the cuts are in the 7th year.

In the 7th year the President is not going to be here. It is such a draconian mandate that undoubtedly Congress

would find it unacceptable. Clearly it lacks the commitment that is necessary for it to be workable; and that is that we have a proportional cut over each year that is equitable and palatable to the American public. Further, Mr. President, we have not gone into the second-tier issues.

These are issues that are subject to considerable debate, but they are in the reconciliation, and the reconciliation process as we know it is hung up as a consequence of the continued discussion over Medicaid, Medicare, welfare, taxes, and so forth.

As a consequence, we have an emergency not just associated with weather, but in my State concerning resource development on public lands. As an example, we have unresolved the issue of opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Area for oil exploration. That is covered in the reconciliation package. We have a mining piece of legislation, a mining bill in the reconciliation package that will either determine the future of domestic mining or the demise of mining in the United States as we find ourselves in a situation where the industry is no longer able to generate a reasonable return on domestic investments and moves overseas.

So there is much riding on a resolve, and we also have unresolved major appropriations bills affecting my State and the timber industry in the Tongass and the Interior appropriations bill. So it is imperative that judgments be made and that those judgments be made in a timely manner.

As a consequence, Mr. President, I would just like to refer to what I think is the significance of what this debate is all about. It has been suggested that the debate concerns itself with a balanced budget. I think it is more fundamental. I think it is a historic debate about the role and the scope of Washington, DC, whether Washington will continue to tax Americans more, to spend more of America's savings, to regulate Americans more, and to control Americans more, or whether we are going to see a departure that will begin to reduce the size, scope, and power of Washington, DC. I think that is what this debate is all about. I think that is what we should focus in on. We are at a significant crossroads, Mr. President, and it is appropriate that we recognize it for what it is. It is either doing business as usual or a substantial departure from the status quo.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to have printed in the RECORD a letter from Kelly R. King. Kelly King is a college student from Alaska. He was formerly an intern in my office. He has written this letter to each Member of the U.S. Senate who chose not to support opening the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve for exploration and, if the oil is there, production. I think it is appropriate that we reflect on the attitudes prevailing concerning whether or not we are going to continue to develop our natural resources in the United States, whether it be on public land for

grazing, mining, timbering, oil and gas exploration, or whether we are going to depend on imports.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECEMBER 5, 1995.

Hon. PAUL WELLSTONE,  
U.S. Senator,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WELLSTONE: Now that I am of voting age, I have taken a deep interest in the affairs of my nation, and particularly my state. The nation is facing a growing national debt that we must stop. Alaska proposed a solution to help this problem which you voted against, that is, the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil exploration. I hope that you will reconsider your decision with some information that I hope to bring to your attention. If we opened the 1002 area to drilling, not only would it help to solve the national debt, but it would also decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

In 1980, Congress set aside 1.5 million acres out of a total of 19 million acres in ANWR so that it could be studied and considered for oil exploration and named it the 1002 area. The studies have been done and it is time to open it for drilling. Geologists have found that there is considerable evidence that sizable quantities of oil could be found in the Arctic Oil Reserve and recommend opening the AOR for drilling. Don't believe those that tell you that ANWR is America's last wilderness. In fact, more than 192 million acres of the State of Alaska are already protected as either National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, Marine parks and other federal and state conservation units. The 1002 area is not designated as a wilderness. Studies show that more than 99 percent of ANWR would remain untouched if oil drilling were to take place. A study done by the Office of Technology Assessment found that fewer than 2000 acres of the 1.5 million acres in the 1002, less than 5 percent, would be affected. You can see by that study that drilling will only affect the environment in minute ways. Modern day technologies will allow us to drill for oil safely without hurting the environment.

You may ask how opening ANWR will affect your state and America? Economists are estimating that if ANWR was opened to drilling, that it would create over 700,000 jobs all around the country. Not only would the United States benefit, but over 700,000 Americans would have job security in the oil industry for centuries to come. In a recent survey done around the country, very few people have even heard of ANWR. And when presented with the facts, they supported the idea of drilling in the 1002 Area.

Bi-partisan support for the opening of the Arctic Oil Reserve (1002 Area) is widespread throughout Alaska. Not only is it backed by the Alaska State Legislature, Governor Knowles, and most of Alaskan citizens, but the Alaska Federation of Natives endorses this plan as well. The majority of Alaska Natives feel that development of the reserve can only better their lives. If oil is found, it will eventually provide jobs, water and sewer systems, electric power, and security for their villages, while not sacrificing the wildlife on which they are so dependent. The Porcupine Caribou herd is of concern to Natives and to all Alaskans, but careful regulations were implemented at Prudhoe Bay and the Central Arctic caribou herd grew from 3,000 in 1972 to 18,000 today. This confirms that animals and development can coexist in the Arctic.

I hope that you use some of the facts that I have provided, continue to research the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and reconsider your decision. Development can only better the United States and Alaska. I believe there is nothing to lose in opening the Arctic Oil Reserve. If you would like more information, I would urge you to contact the Alaska Delegation. Please carefully decide, based on sound science—the obvious answer being that it is time to open the Arctic Oil Reserve. Americans and Alaskans both know that it is time.

Sincerely,

KELLY R. KING,  
College Student.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### THE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first, I thank my distinguished colleague from North Dakota for allowing me to speak for a few minutes. We have had a little discussion about the snowstorm, which I think is all well and good. I want to return to the very serious subject on the negotiations relative to the Nation's budget. It has been my privilege to associate with the distinguished majority leader, the Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE], and the distinguished majority whip, the Senator from Mississippi, and others, who in the last 2 weeks have worked on these issues. I must say that I was extremely disappointed yesterday that a further resolution of this matter could not have been achieved by the President in good-faith negotiations on both sides, as characterized by the participants.

I had hoped that perhaps some of the can-do spirit manifested here in the Northeast as we cope individually and collectively with the storm could have been infused in those negotiations. But my concern, however, is over the hiatus between now and the proposed adjournment resolution, which I understand the Senate will soon be taking up. As it relates to my particular area of responsibilities, namely the Commonwealth of Virginia and particularly the adjoining areas in the greater metropolitan area, this geographic area has been severely hit economically as a consequence of this shutdown. First and foremost, the cost has been what I regard as an unfair burden placed upon the shoulders of Government public servants who, in good faith, tried to do their work but were furloughed. They were caught in a crossfire, which I think was totally unjust. Nevertheless, I and many others worked successfully to restore their work status and, indeed, their pay.

But, Mr. President, there is an entire infrastructure that, likewise, has suffered and will receive no restitution as a consequence of this shutdown. Hotel, motel, transportation, restaurants, and a vast array of the private sector, mostly small businesses, have been affected here in the greater metropolitan area, and most severely in northern Virginia and throughout the tidewater area of Virginia, by this shutdown.

My concern is whether, during this period of uncertainty, tourists and travelers will continue to come to the Nation's Capitol while a possible shutdown again hangs in abeyance until Congress returns and the negotiators again attempt to resolve this impasse. Take, for example, a family planning to come to the Nation's Capitol, having invested their hard-earned savings for a trip to see the wonders that we have here; are they still going to come?

I see the distinguished majority whip. I know from working with him and the majority leader that none of us wants to see a further Government shutdown. I hope that in a short colloquy we might convey as best we can, that it is highly unlikely that we would experience another shutdown such that it would impede and adversely affect the plans of people who normally would be visiting this area.

Mr. LOTT. If the Senator from Virginia will yield for a comment and response. First, I want to say how much I appreciate—and I want to make sure that all Members recognize that the distinguished senior Senator from Virginia has been very, very diligent over the past weeks when the Senate has just been in very brief sessions. When most Senators were back in their respective States during the holidays, I would turn on C-SPAN and I would see the Senator from Virginia here with our distinguished majority leader. The majority leader would report on the status of the budget discussions, and the Senator from Virginia was always here. He has made his case very well about not only the need to get a balanced budget and get a control on Washington, DC, but also his concern that the Government be open doing its work, and that the Federal employees, and indeed those that are affected by that shutdown that we had, the business men and women in Northern Virginia, that their positions be recognized. So he certainly has done an excellent job in that area.

With regard to what may be happening, of course, there are a number of things that may be happening in the next couple of weeks. I note the budget negotiators are senior Members that were there from the Congress, meeting with the administration. They have described this as a recess. In any negotiation you reach a point where you really do sometime need to take a break, get away from each other, assess what the numbers are. I assume the Budget Committee members and staff at the White House will be assessing the latest offers. So there is a possibility that the negotiations to reach an agreement would get back going next week.

I know the majority leader indicated very strongly that, whenever the President feels like there is a need for—a reason to get back and have discussions, that certainly our majority leader and the Speaker of the House and majority leader in the House would honor a request to get back together. So there is a possibility that will happen.